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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/340,478	06/30/1999	SANDEEP P. GOLIKERI	2204/151	3956

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EXAMINER

VU, THONG N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2666

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

HC

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/340,478

Applicant(s)

GOLIKER ET AL.

Examiner

Thong N. Vu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5, 12 and 14-36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 3-5, 12, and 14-36 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 3, lines 3 & 5, "a list of locally owned address information" seems to refer back to "a list of locally owned address information" recited in claim 1, line 6. If this is true, it is suggested to change "a list of locally owned address information" to --- the list of locally owned address information ---. The same problem exists with "a predetermined sorting scheme" in claim 3, lines 7-8; "a lexicographically lowest address entry" in claim 12, lines 7-9; "a list of locally owned address information" in claim 14, lines 10-11; "an index/pointer" in claims 20 & 28, line 5; "a lexicographically lowest address entry" in claims 20 & 28, lines 5-6; and "a list of locally owned address information" in claim 22, lines 9-10.

In claim 30, lines 9 & 11, the phrase "locally owned address information" seems to refer back to "locally owned address information" recited in claim 30, line 5. If this is true, it is suggested to change "locally owned address information" to --- the locally owned address information ---. The same is true with the phrase "locally owned address information" recited in claim 33, lines 8 & 10 and in claim 36, lines 6-7.

Claims 4-5, 15-19, 21, 23-27, 29, 31-32 and 34-35 are objected to since they depend on objected claims.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 3-5, 12 and 14-29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 3, line 6, the phrase "the other interconnected modules" has no antecedent basis. The same problem exists with "the lexicographically next address entry" in claim 12, lines 8-9; and "the other interconnected modules" in claim 14, line 11 and in claim 22, line 10.

Claims 4-5, 15-21 and 23-29 are rejected since they depend on rejected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-13 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kainuma (U.S. Patent No. 6,308,226) in view of Burrows (U.S. Patent No. 5,966,710).

Regarding claim 1 and 36, Kainuma discloses a method for executing a work flow comprising steps of:

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-retrieving a list of owned address information corresponds to step of retrieving entry information from a database, as taught in the reference in column 12, lines 36-38.

-reporting the sorted address information corresponds to step of reporting network address information as disclosed in the reference in column 12, lines 33-34.

However, Kainuma fails to teach the step of sorting the retrieved address information. Burrows from the same or similar field of endeavor teaches a step of sorting information in word order as in the reference in column 9 line 54. Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the step of sorting information with the method for searching as taught by Burrows in the method of Kainuma. The motivation for using this combination is being that optimizing for query access.

Claim 2-13 are rejected since they depend on rejected claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-13, 15-21, 23-29 and 34-35 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, claims 3 and 20 need to overcome the objection under 37 CFR 1.75.

Claims 14, 22, 30 and 33 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action. In addition, they need to overcome the objection under 37 CFR 1.75.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong N. Vu whose telephone number is 703-305-6959. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday; 8:30 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 703-308-5463. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9313 for regular communications and 703-872-9313 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

T. Vu
November 30, 2002


DANG TON
PRIMARY EXAMINER